AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A nail clipper comprising:

a top elongated member having a top surface, a bottom surface, a pair of side surfaces connecting the top and bottom surfaces, and distal and proximal ends;

a bottom elongated member having a top surface, a bottom surface, a pair of side surfaces connecting the top and bottom surfaces, and distal and proximal ends;

a first post having a first end coupled to the top surface of the bottom elongated member adjacent the proximal end thereof and a second end located at a point above the top surface of the top elongated member, the post being located adjacent to and outwardly of a side surface of the top elongated member;

a second post having a first end and a second end, the first end of the second post being connected to the second end of the first post by a hinge, and the second end of the second post being located above the first end of the second post;

each of the proximal ends of the top and bottom members having a cutting edge disposed in opposing nail clipping relationship;

a lever having a distal end, a proximal end, and a bottom surface, the bottom surface coupled to the second end of the second post, ~~the proximal end of the lever connected to the proximal end of the top elongated member,~~ and the lever disposed and adapted to cause movement of the cutting edges between a cutting position and non-cutting position by contacting the top surface of the top member with the first end of the second post; and

a bumper disposed on the bottom surface of the bottom member, the bumper having an edge disposed distant from the proximal end of the bottom member,

wherein the lever lacks a hole through which the post extends.

2 – 4. (Canceled)

5. (Original) A nail clipper according to claim 1, wherein the bumper extends from about the proximal end to said edge and has a generally triangular shape whose apex is distant from the bottom elongated member.

6. (Previously presented) A nail clipper according to claim 17, wherein said lever includes a thumb accepting depression.

7. (Previously presented) A nail clipper according to claim 6, wherein the cutting edges are disposed at an angle to a central longitudinal axis of the top and bottom elongated members.

8. (Previously presented) A nail clipper according to claim 1, wherein the cutting edges are disposed at an angle to a central longitudinal axis of the top and bottom elongated members.

9 – 15. (Canceled)

16. (Withdrawn) A nail clipper according to claim 1, wherein the distal ends of the top and bottom elongated members are interconnected.

17. (Previously presented) A nail clipper according to claim 1, wherein the distal ends of the top and bottom elongated members are not interconnected.

18 – 19. (Canceled)

20. (Previously presented) A nail clipper according to claim 22, wherein the bumper extends from about the distal end to said edge and has a generally triangular shape whose apex is distant from the bottom elongated member.

21. (Canceled)

22. (Previously presented) A nail clipper comprising:

a top elongated members having a top surface, a bottom surface, a pair of side surfaces, and distal and proximal ends;

a bottom elongated member having a top surface, a bottom surface, a pair of side surfaces connecting the top and bottom surfaces, and distal and proximal ends;

the distal ends of the top and bottom elongated members not being interconnected;

a first post having a first end coupled to the top surface of the bottom elongated member adjacent the proximal end thereof and a second end located at a point above the top surface of the top elongated member, the post abutting and interconnected to a side surface of the top elongated member;

a second post having a first end and a second end, the first end of the second post being connected to the second end of the first post by a hinge, and the second end of the second post being located above the first end of the second post;

each of the proximal ends of the top and bottom members having a cutting edge disposed in opposing nail clipping relationship, wherein the cutting edges are disposed at an angle to the central longitudinal axis of the top and bottom elongated members;

a lever having a bottom surface coupled to the second end of the second post at substantially a right angle, the lever disposed and adapted to cause movement of the cutting edges between a cutting position and non-cutting position, the lever including a thumb accepting depression; and

a bumper disposed on the bottom surface of the bottom member, the bumper having an edge disposed distant from the proximal end of the bottom member,

wherein the lever lacks a hole through which the post extends.

23. (Previously presented) A nail clipper comprising:

a top elongated member having a top surface, a bottom surface, and distal and proximal ends;

a bottom elongated member having a top surface, a bottom surface, and distal and proximal ends;

each of the proximal ends of the top and bottom members having a cutting edge;

a first post having a first end coupled to the bottom elongated member and a second end located above the top elongated member;

a second post having a first end and a second end, the first end of the second post being connected to the second end of the first post by a hinge, and the second end of the second post being located above the first end of the second post; and

a lever having a distal end, a proximal end, and a bottom surface, the second end of the second post coupled to the bottom surface of the lever at a position between the distal end and proximal end of the lever, the lever disposed and adapted to cause movement of the cutting edges between a cutting position and a non-cutting position.

24. (Previously presented) A nail clipper according to claim 23, further comprising a bumper disposed on the bottom surface of the bottom member, the bumper having an edge disposed distant from the proximal end of the bottom member.

25. (Previously presented) A nail clipper according to claim 24, wherein the bumper extends from about the proximal end to said edge and has a generally triangular shape whose apex is distant from the bottom elongated member.

26. (Previously presented) A nail clipper according to claim 23, wherein said lever includes a thumb accepting depression.

27. (Previously presented) A nail clipper according to claim 23, wherein the cutting edges are disposed at an angle to a central longitudinal axis of the top and bottom elongated members.

28. (Withdrawn) A nail clipper according to claim 1, wherein the distal ends of the top and bottom elongated members are interconnected.

29. (Previously presented) A nail clipper according to claim 1, wherein the distal ends of the top and bottom elongated members are not interconnected.

30. (Previously presented) The nail clipper of claim 23, wherein the bottom surface of the lever is coupled to the second end of the second post at approximately a right angle.

31. (Previously presented) The nail clipper of claim 23, wherein the proximal end of the lever is connected to the proximal end of the top elongated member.

32. (Previously presented) The nail clipper of claim 1, wherein the second end of the second post is coupled to the bottom surface of the lever at a position between the distal end and proximal end of the lever.

33. (Previously presented) The nail clipper of claim 1, wherein the bottom surface of the lever is coupled to the second end of the second post at approximately a right angle.